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NEWS RELEASE

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College Board Releases 2007 Rhode Island SAT, AP, and PSAT Results

The College Board today (August 28th, 2007) released the 2007 test scores and participation rates of Rhode Island students on the SAT and AP (advanced placement) exams.

On the SAT test, Rhode Island students scored 496 in critical reading, 498 in mathematics, and 492 in writing. About 68 percent of the seniors in the state took the exam.

Among public-school seniors, the students scored 483 in critical reading, 489 in mathematics, and 478 in writing. About 62 percent of the public-school seniors in the state took the exam, up two points from last year, for the 15th-highest participation rate among the states.

As with nearly all states, Rhode Island scores declined for the second year in a row. Among public-school students, reading dropped 2 points, mathematics dropped 6 points, and writing dropped 1 point.

Nationally, among public-school students, reading dropped 2 points, mathematics dropped 5 points, and writing dropped 4 points. Of the 27 states with participation rates above 20 percent, only one (Vermont) had rising scores.

In Rhode Island, gaps of about 100 points separated the scores in the urban districts from scores in the suburban districts. Students in urban districts scored 416 in reading (up 2 points), 415 in mathematics (down 3 points), and 409 in writing (down 1 point). Suburban students scored 513 in reading (down 3 points), 520 in mathematics (down 6 points), and 507 in writing (up 2 points).

Participation in the AP tests among public-school students was up for the second year in a row, increasing by 11 percent. The students took a total of 3,474 AP tests, of which about 58 percent (2,014) were scored at 3 or better, which represents college-level mastery, according to the College Board.

“Though I am disappointed to see our SAT scores decline, we are part of a national trend in which scores have declined for two years in nearly every state,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “I am pleased, however, to see that more of our seniors are taking the SAT and the AP exams, which shows that an increasing number of our students are taking the right steps toward a successful transition to college.”

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PSAT participation rates declined among public-school juniors (6.7 percent) and sophomores (7.6 percent) because one district did not participate in the program through which the state pays PSAT fees if the district requires all juniors to take the test.

The SATs, administered by the College Board, are voluntary tests that are used as a criterion for college admissions. Each is scored on a scale of 200 to 800 points. Nationwide, public-school students scored 498 in reading, 509 in mathematics, and 488 in writing, with a participation rate of 42 percent.

A list of scores by public high school will be posted on the RIDE Web site, www.ride.ri.gov